

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1144

To improve transit services, including in rural States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. CRAPO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To improve transit services, including in rural States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Transit Im-
5 provement and Flexibility Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FORMULA GRANTS FOR OTHER THAN URBANIZED**
7 **AREAS.**

8 Section 5311(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code,
9 is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “20 per-
11 cent” and inserting “25 percent”; and

1 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “80 per-
2 cent” and inserting “75 percent”.

3 **SEC. 3. FLEXIBLE USE OF ELDERLY AND DISABLED FUND-**
4 **ING.**

5 Section 5310 of title 49, United States Code, is
6 amended by—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(5) OPERATING COSTS.—A State may use not
10 more than 25 percent of the amounts apportioned to
11 the State under this section for operating costs of
12 equipment and facilities that are or have been fund-
13 ed in whole or part under this section.”; and

14 (2) in subsection (c)—

15 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
16 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

17 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
18 following:

19 “(2) OPERATING ASSISTANCE.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
21 subparagraph (B), a grant made under this sec-
22 tion for operating assistance may not exceed 50
23 percent of the net operating costs of the
24 project, as determined by the Secretary.

1 “(B) EXCEPTION.—A State described in
 2 section 120(b) of title 23 shall receive a Gov-
 3 ernment share of the net operating costs equal
 4 to 62.5 percent of the Government share pro-
 5 vided for under paragraph (1)(B).”.

6 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM FOR TRANSIT CENTERS IN SMALL-**
 7 **ER CITIES AND TOWNS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 53 of title 49, United
 9 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5311
 10 the following:

11 **“§ 5311a. Pilot program for transit centers in smaller**
 12 **cities and towns**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 14 program (referred to in this section as the ‘program’) of
 15 grants to eligible States for the purpose of establishing
 16 transit centers in urbanized areas with a population of less
 17 than 200,000 and in areas other than urbanized areas.
 18 Such transit centers may include multimodal transpor-
 19 tation centers that include transit centers.

20 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program is to
 21 facilitate the development of transit service in areas that,
 22 historically, may not have received adequate attention to
 23 the development of transit service by providing facilities
 24 that have the potential to be transformational with respect

1 to the provision of improved transit service in a commu-
2 nity.

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

4 “(1) the term ‘eligible State’ means a State
5 with a population density of less than 100 persons
6 per square mile of land area, based on the most re-
7 cent decennial census at the time an application is
8 filed; and

9 “(2) the definitions of ‘recipient’ and ‘sub-
10 recipient’ in section 5311(a) shall apply.

11 “(d) PROCEDURES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
13 administrative procedures and requirements for the
14 implementation of this section, including any appli-
15 cation procedures, and may pattern such procedures
16 and requirements after requirements applicable to
17 discretionary bus grants under section 5309, but
18 shall streamline such processes and limit require-
19 ments to the maximum extent possible, to facilitate
20 prompt implementation of the program and to mini-
21 mize the regulatory burden on grant recipients and
22 subrecipients.

23 “(2) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall de-
24 velop proposed procedures under this subsection and
25 publish them in the Federal Register for comment

1 within 60 days of the date of enactment of this sec-
2 tion. Final procedures shall be adopted within 60
3 days of the close of said comment period.

4 “(e) DISTRIBUTION.—In distributing funds pursuant
5 to this section—

6 “(1) the Secretary shall, prior to the completion
7 of fiscal year 2012, award grants to establish at
8 least one such center in each eligible State, provided
9 that satisfactory applications have been filed from
10 each eligible State in a timely manner to enable such
11 distribution; and

12 “(2) prior to the completion of fiscal year 2015,
13 shall award grants to establish at least 2 such cen-
14 ters in each eligible State, provided that satisfactory
15 applications have been filed from each eligible State
16 in a timely manner to enable such distribution.

17 “(f) ADMINISTRATION COSTS.—A recipient may use
18 not more than 10 percent of amounts awarded under this
19 section for a project to administer, plan, and provide tech-
20 nical assistance for that project funded under this section.
21 A recipient may allocate to a subrecipient all or part of
22 the amount the recipient may use under this subsection
23 to administer, plan, and provide technical assistance for
24 a project.

1 “(g) ELIGIBLE EXPENSES AND GOVERNMENT
2 SHARE.—Except for administrative expenses authorized
3 under subsection (f), grants under this program shall be
4 only for capital expenses, including buildings, facilities for
5 the maintenance and repair of buses and other transit ve-
6 hicles, off street transit vehicle stop space and transit vehi-
7 cle parking space, passenger seating areas, and other cap-
8 ital expenditures as the Secretary may determine appro-
9 priate. The Government share of capital costs under this
10 section shall be 100 percent.”.

11 (b) FUNDING.—From the Mass Transit Account of
12 the Highway Trust Fund there shall be made available
13 to carry out the program established pursuant to section
14 5311a of title 49, United States Code, \$25,000,000 for
15 fiscal year 2010 and \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
16 2011 through 2015. All such amounts are to remain avail-
17 able until expended.

○